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FOR

IRELAND.

A LETTER

ADDRESSED TO THE

RIGHT HON. EDWARD HORSMAN, M.P.,

CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND.

BY PATRICK JOSEPH MURRAY,

BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

"Il est des systèmes qui ne réalisent rien, mais c'est parce qu'ils imaginent l'impossible. Mettray a posé la limite, le point de départ entre le progrès et l'utopie, c'est pourquoi Mettray a rencontré des imitateurs." RAPPORT DE M. DEMETZ, DIRECTEUR DE LA COLONIE AGRICOLE DE METTRAY. 1854.

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FOR

I R E L A N D.

TO THE

RIGHT HON. EDWARD HORSMAN, M.P.,

CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND.

SIR,

Having some knowledge of the Reformatory Principle, gathered from observation, from discussion, and from careful study; and perceiving, from the public journals, that you purpose to extend the provisions of the English *Juvenile Offenders' Act* to Ireland—I address this letter to you, and shall endeavour to prove that your contemplated measure is one, which, if adopted by the Legislature, will be an injury to the Reformatory Movement in Ireland,—the Act being unsuited to the country, and calculated to destroy public confidence in the intentions of the Government.

I know not if you are acquainted with the history of the Reformatory Movement in England and Scotland. There, for long years, private benevolence labored with that quiet zeal which ever succeeds in its object, despite Government apathy, official contempt, or public neglect. Prison Chaplains, hard-working rectors, country magistrates, and other bucolic dreamers, backed by some lawyers, whose experiences proved the

utter absurdity, and irreparable mischief, of committing juvenile criminals to common gaols, were the founders of this Movement. There was some sneering; a good deal of writing, some sensible and some nonsense; money was subscribed, and paid; more was promised, and not paid; but, amidst all the openings of institutions, and closings, and struggling to keep open, the success of the Principle was proved, and admitted, and then the agitation swelled into a Movement.

Then came some more writing; a few more speeches; facts and figures were gathered from all countries in which Reformatories were in operation: the Reports of all the Reformatories opened through voluntary agency in England were collected, compared, analyzed, and proved, before a Committee of the House of Commons; and then, and not till then, did the Movement gain its full developement, and thus was shewn the truth of Sydney Smith's observation,—“The English are a calm, reflecting people; they will give time and money when they are convinced; but they love dates, names, and certificates. In the midst of the most heart-rending narratives, Bull requires the day of the month, the year of our Lord, the name of the parish, and the countersign of three or four respectable householders. After these affecting circumstances he can no longer hold out; but gives way to the kindness of his nature—puffs, blubbers—and subscribes.” Conferences were held at Birmingham, and at Newcastle, and all parties were unanimous in agreeing to the resolution, that “a Child, even when Criminal, should be treated as a Child, and sent to a Reformatory School, and not to a Prison.” The result of all these meetings was, that a Reformatory School Bill, for England, was agreed upon.

The framers of that Bill were intimately acquainted with the wants, wishes, and temperament of their country; they knew, thoroughly, and most thoroughly, the whole philosophy

of the important principle which they were called upon to aid in legislating : to them it was a long hoped for, long studied measure,—not snatched as the claptrap topic of the hour, a raft, as it were, to float them over the tide of public favor, into places of emolument.

With how great zeal, and anxiety, and knowledge, the Bill was drafted, all who are acquainted with the names, amongst others, of Mary Carpenter, Mr. Recorder Hill, Mr. Frederick Hill, Mr. Adderley, Sir John Pakington, will understand. The Bill came before Parliament, and was passed.

Whilst England was thus advancing, Scotland was not idle. The history of the Aberdeen Industrial Schools, I have, from my esteemed friend, Mr. Thomson, of Banchory ; that of the equally admirable Glasgow House of Refuge for Boys, we have from the Rev. Dr. Craik ; whilst the Edinburgh Schools possess an eloquent advocate in the Rev. Dr. Guthrie. Scotland agitated for its own Act of Parliament, one suited to its requirements,—not an extension of the English, but a genuine Scotch Act, and the Act was passed some few months after the passing of the English measure. It is an admirable piece of legislation ; it was drafted by men who had worked in the cause, and who knew the country and the people.

Having thus, shortly and plainly, sketched the outline of the history of the Reformatory Movement, it is patent, to the least careful reader, that these measures contemplated only Voluntary schools,—Reformatories existing, or be afterwards opened, supported by voluntary agency, assisted by a fixed sum per head, from the State, for each juvenile committed to any of these institutions. Being voluntary, they are the property of those who established them : once certified by the Government Inspector, they are, so long as the rules are observed, entitled to claim the full benefit of each provision of the Act ; and all who may be committed to the Reformatory are to receive the religious teaching of those who are its

Directors, without the slightest remedy, or right of complaint, from any third party.

I freely admit that in England and in Scotland, where the existence of Catholicism is ignored, the evil, the injustice, of this course, is neither so glaring nor so offensive as it would be in Ireland. And even in England, where Catholic gaol chaplains are considered unnecessary, and admitted to Catholics only on demand, (as if a man's soul were as his stomach, and pained him when out of order, forcing him to call for the doctor,) the good sense of the country has come to the aid of the law, and there is some hope that Catholic juveniles will be sent to Catholic Reformatories; and, incited by this hope, the Catholics are about to open a Institution in Charnwood Forest, four miles from the Monastery of St. Bernard, for 100 boys, at a cost of £4,000.

But if the Act were extended to Ireland, what Catholic in this country would be satisfied with it? What Catholic would subscribe to erect a Catholic Reformatory under the measure?

You have been quite long enough in this island to know that some of our judges were of wonderfully active faith, and of energetic religion, in their days of probation at the bar, and that many of them still cling to their old convictions and hatred of "Popery." You may possibly have heard that many of our Justices of Peace are rampant Orangemen or virulent Conservatives. Possibly, too, you may have seen petitions from Poor Law Unions shewing constant squabbles about the religion of the paupers, and how ex-officio guardians have come to the rescue of souls from the impending horrors of a beggar's enrolment in the list of Catholic inmates. If you know these things, and if you have observed the constant efforts made to destroy the faith of the people in their old religion; if you have noted how the number of Protestants increases as the crops fail; if you have remarked the wonderful correspondence between the consumption of soup and oat-meal,

and the reputed decline of Catholicity, you will not wonder that any legislative measure which enables judges or magistrates to commit young Catholic offenders to the custody of Reformatory School managers, who may teach religion as they please, should excite distrust and opposition amongst the Catholics of Ireland ?

What is easier than to close the soup shop and the feeding school, and to open the Reformatory ? Will the magistrate or judge who subscribed to the former hesitate about committing to the latter ? Will the zealots, the Spooners, and the Chambers'—will the hypocrites, the Pauls, with a desire for their neighbours' souls and purses, of Exeter Hall, pause before changing their subscriptions from the Irish Church Mission to Roman Catholics, to the Irish Reformatory Association ? Surely not ; the very law will be made an instrument of proselytism.

But, admitting, for a moment, that the proselytising spirit so strong in Ireland would not extend to such lengths as these, where, by voluntary aid, could money be procured to establish Catholic Reformatories ? We, here, support our religion by that free system of voluntarism of which you, yourself, are so able an advocate ; we support charities without number, from refuges for the penitent to asylums for the good ; we have free schools and hospitals ; we have religious houses and orphan schools ; we erect churches and chapels ; and all this is done without aid from the State ; but we are not able, in addition to all these, to support Prisons for Juvenile Offender.

Besides, the public know little of gaols or prisons. Ask your admirable officers, the Directors of Convict Prisons, or those equally excellent officers, the Inspectors General of Prisons, what the public knows of gaols, in Ireland. They will tell you, that in the opinion of the public a gaol is a place in which offenders are locked up ; that any kind of well conducted clergyman, not very useful, is just the man fit for a gaol chaplainship ; they will tell you that a Prison Governor is gene-

rally the friend or relation of the county member ; and that the turnkey's office is usually filled by somebody who had the good fortune to be introduced by the High Sheriff. They will tell you that a schoolmaster is generally a curiosity of inaptitude ; that assistant matrons are advertised for to perform the duties of "schoolmistress *and* superintendent of lunatics;" they will tell you too, that Grand Juries object to paying for schoolmasters, "as it is only teaching blackguards to write threatening notices ; and at all events, a turnkey is good enough to teach them." All these things the gentlemen, to whom I have above referred, will tell you ; or their able and careful *Reports* will shew them ; and knowing these things, how can we expect to see Reformatory Schools established in Ireland on the voluntary principle, and established by virtue of an Act of Parliament, unsuited to the country, and exciting distrust by its provisions.

But, it may be asked, how should a Reformatory School Bill for Ireland be framed ?

This is a grave query, comprising most momentous social problems ; and problems too, which can only be solved after earnest discussion, by men whose duties or whose professions make them fully acquainted with the whole bearings of this important question. I have, however, been favored with a copy of a Draft Bill, for the establishment of Reformatories in Ireland, which appears to me eminently calculated to meet the difficulties of the subject, and I presume it is drawn up by persons who are acquainted with the bearings of the case, as all the details seem well considered, and carefully embodied. I shall here insert the provisions of this Bill, premising that, in form, it is but a record of the principles which should be adopted in framing any Reformatory measure intended to be useful in its results, and satisfactory in its working, in Ireland. The sections are as follow :—

**"A BILL FOR THE BETTER CARE AND REFORMATION OF YOUTHFUL
MALE OFFENDERS IN IRELAND."**

Whereas, Juvenile Crime prevailing to a considerable extent in Ireland, and frequent re-committals occurring, owing to the inapplicability of the ordinary discipline of Gaols to reform Young Offenders, it is deemed expedient that Reformatory Institutions be established in Ireland: Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, as follows:

I. That it shall and may be lawful for the Lord Lieutenant, or other Chief Governor or Governors of Ireland, to erect buildings, or to purchase buildings already erected, suitable for the purposes of Reformatories (said buildings to be situated in such localities as may seem most suitable and necessary) with such portions of land attached to each as may be deemed requisite: and it shall and may be lawful for the Lord Lieutenant, or other Chief Governor or Governors of Ireland, to order and direct the entire cost of erecting or purchasing said buildings, and of purchasing said land, to be advanced out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, to such person or persons as shall be nominated and appointed to receive same by the Lord Lieutenant, or other Chief Governor or Governors of Ireland: and one half the amount so advanced from the Consolidated Fund shall be repaid, within a period of not less than thirty years from the time when the Reformatory Institution for which the said sums shall have been advanced, shall be completed and reported ready for occupation by the Inspector, to be nominated and appointed for that purpose by the Lord Lieutenant, or other Chief Governor or Governors of Ireland. And the said sums so advanced shall be divided into twenty-eight equal parts, which shall be repaid in twenty-eight equal annual payments, the first annual payment to be made after the completion of the twenty-fourth month from the time at which the Report of the Inspector as aforesaid shall bear date, and shall be chargeable upon the counties from which Young Offenders shall have been sent to such Reformatory, and shall, at the Assizes next ensuing, be Presented for by the Grand Juries of the respective counties from which such Young Offenders shall have been sent to such Reformatory: and the Superintendent of such Institution shall cause lists to be kept of the names and numbers of the Young Offenders committed to such Reformatory, with the dates of the Committals, and a proportional part of the said monies to be annually repaid to the Consolidated Fund as aforesaid, shall be charged against the rates of said County, whence such young Offenders shall have been committed to said Reformatory, and same shall be presented for by the Grand Jury of said County at the Assizes next ensuing, and the amount shall be paid to said Superintendant as aforesaid."

It will be perceived, that by this first section, all hope of the success of the voluntary principle in Ireland, in support-

ing Reformatories, is abandoned, and I think wisely ; for if rich England permits the closure of Stretton-on-Dunsmore, after its thirty years of admitted usefulness ; if it throws Saltley and Hardwicke, for their main support, upon the private fortune of Mr. Adderley and Mr. Baker, surely poor Ireland cannot be considered capable of keeping open, by means of voluntary contribution, the number of Reformatories capable of receiving our Juvenile Criminals. Besides, in the last Number of *The Quarterly Review*, in a paper on Reformatory Schools, and stated to be from the pen of Sir Stafford Northcote, it is declared that the Government grant of 5*s.* per head must be raised to 7*s.*

The provisions of this section are founded upon the third and fourth sections of the first and second, G. IV. c. 33., known as the Irish Lunatic Asylums Act, but all the provisions of this section are so intimately bound up with those of the fourth, that I defer further observations upon them, until I shall discuss those of the latter section.

I now proceed to the second section, which is as follows :—

“ II. The Reformatories shall be set apart for the exclusive reception of the Professors of the Protestant or of the Roman Catholic Religions respectively : and all Offenders committed to a Reformatory shall be considered as belonging to the same religious persuasion as that professed by their parents ; and in all cases in which the religion of the parent is unknown, the young person committed shall be considered as belonging to that religious persuasion of which he professes himself a follower.”

The provisions of this section, it must be admitted by all who know the state of religious feeling in Ireland, are strictly requisite in any such Bill as that before us, if it be intended to secure public confidence for the measure. But indeed the authority of Mettray is in favor of the principle herein contained. Catholics form as large a proportion of the great body of criminals, compared with Protestants, in Ireland as in France, for the simple reason, that those of the former religion are most exposed to temptation, and are the vast majority of the population.

Besides, if further proof of the necessity for this rule, and of its good sense, were needed, it is furnished by our esteemed friend, Mr. Recorder Hall, who, in his admirable Lecture on Mettray, informs us—"all the colonists at Mettray are Roman Catholics, but this is only to avoid the inconvenience of mixing children of different persuasions. M. le Comte de Gasparin, the President, of the Society, is himself a Protestant; children of that faith are sent to a Protestant colony at Sainte Foy." And I know, from M. Martin, the Protestant head of this Protestant Colony, that he believes the Protestants and Catholics cannot be reformed together—that if the boys do not quarrel, the chaplains most surely will disagree.

It may be objected to this section, that it is in direct controversion of the principles of the Irish System of National Education: none admire that system more earnestly than I, and did I consider the objection founded in truth, I would at once oppose the section as being a check upon the progression and full developement of the greatest legislative boon ever conferred upon Ireland. But it is not opposed to it. By the National System religion is made the companion of literature and science; it is combined with the system, so that those who have never fallen into crime may learn that the avoidance of crime and the love of virtue are the greatest duties of life; but in the Reformatory School all have fallen into crime, and most require to be taught what virtue is. In the National School the knowledge, and the acceptance of God's law, are taken as admitted rules of conduct; in the Reformatory School the ignorance of this law, or knowledge of it warped from its true position, as the rule of duty, must be considered as the great difficulty to be encountered; yet, in this same school, religion must be made the be all and the end all of every hope of Reformation,—it must be the lever to raise the "Home Heathen" to the knowledge of his merciful, omnipotent Father.

As to the absurdity of objecting that this section would encourage and acknowledge the teaching of what some well-meaning but thoughtless people call "Popery," the thing is simply ridiculous. Ireland is, in numbers, a Catholic country; the vast mass of its criminal population must of necessity be of that religion, or they must have learned just so much of it as to make them totally incapable of being reformed through the medium of any other faith. It should also be borne in mind, that for a long series of years paid Catholic Chaplains have been appointed to all our Prisons, and in the justice of this arrangement for Ireland, my good friend and fellow countryman, the Rev. Henry Kingsmill, the excellent Chaplain of Pentonville Prison, agrees, even whilst contending most vigorously, in his letter addressed, on the appointment of a Catholic Chaplain to Pentonville Prison, to Lord Palmerston, against the adoption of the same principle in England.

Other considerations may be urged in support of this section. First, if young offenders of different creeds are sent to the same Reformatory, the system will entail a double set of Chaplains, possibly a double staff of officers for each Institution. Second, by combining the two religions in Protestant and Catholic "families" within the same Reformatory, we shall expose the Institution to all those disheartening, embarrassing, and unseemly sectarian squabbles, which at present disgrace the administration of our Poor Houses. Third, the combination of religions will lead to frequent disturbance of arrangements upon Catholic holidays and fasting days. Fourth, the combination will produce distrust amongst the people in Ireland, who are but too apt to consider that all combination in such Institutions as Prisons and Reformatories is designed for the purpose of affording facilities for proselytism. Fifth, and most important of all, if it be admitted, as it must be, that religion is the great means of Juvenile Reformation, it

becomes at once evident that owing to the great, wide, and important differences, between the externals of the two religions, the professors of them never can be placed together in Reformatories, if the peculiar means of Reformation afforded by each faith are to be employed effectively, and, at the same time inoffensively, to those of the opposite creed.

I am not unsupported, in these opinions here expressed upon this second section, by the perfect judgment of those in England who are best able to write with authority and weight of knowledge upon this important topic. Referring to the system of separation, as contemplated by the second section, one of the oldest, most able, and most clear-judging advocates of the Reformatory principle in England, Mr. Recorder Hill, thus writes to me, replying to a query addressed by me to him, in requesting his opinion of the section:—

“I do not look upon the arrangement, as a boon to the professors of either creed, but as a boon to the state. This state is expending money to reform young offenders—the religion of those offenders may be made a potent engine for advancing the object. On the other hand, a religion which they have been taught to fear and hate, and the more contact with which will disunite them from those of their own communion, will retard the reformatory progress, instead of aiding it, and will prove an evil instead of a blessing.

I perfectly agree with you that the two modes of faith are so dissimilar and repugnant to each other in their eternal demonstrations that they ought to be kept widely apart. In the great Prison of the Murate at Florence, I observed an arrangement of altars by which the prisoners could at all times of the day see the various emblems of their worship before them, and I have no doubt that it had been found, by experience, an effect was produced on the minds of the prisoners by this religious apparatus. But all *that* is opposed to the feelings of Protestants, and would assuredly produce no salutary effect on prisoners of that faith.

Why then should the Protestant be subjected to the constant sight of what would be likely to give him a scoffing turn, the most pernicious direction in which his mind could move; or on the other

hand, why should the Roman Catholic be deprived of that which may be a source of consolation to him in his misery."

This is the opinion of a sincere Protestant who has not suffered Creed to crush Christianity. Mr. Hill is accurate in his estimate of the manner in which these symbols work upon the mind of Catholics. James Wilson, of the Belmont Factory, Vauxhall, one of the most eloquent and earnest men in England, thus writes upon this topic, describing the death of a young man, a Catholic, who had worked in the Factory, in one of his admirable letters addressed to the workmen :—

"Before leaving Creamour's death-bed, it is worth remarking to you how good a place it was for learning the wrongness of a practice that we zealous Protestants are very apt to let ourselves fall into—the practice of lumping up together a great many things, some very good, some very bad, and some neither good nor bad, and sticking the label 'Popery' upon the whole bundle, and then thinking it a religious duty to hate, as something belonging to the service of the devil, every single thing in the bundle, and to cry out against any one whom we may see trying to use any of these things in his service to God.

I told you that Creamour was very often in such agony that he could neither speak to nor listen to any one at his bedside. Yet these were the times even more than any others when one would wish to keep religious thoughts uppermost in his mind—times when one would especially wish him to remember that, while he was bearing this great pain as a part of the consequences of his own sins, and yet only for his good, there was One who had borne far greater pain, not for sin of His own, but for ours, and not for any good to Himself, but only for our good.

But how was it possible to say all this to a person in too great pain to be able to attend to you? To a Protestant it would indeed have been impossible to say it, for to attempt to say it by using one's own mouth, and forcing him to use his ears and to give his attention, would have been mere useless cruelty; and the only way of saying all one wished to say, with almost certain success and without pain or effort to the poor sufferer, would so offend his prejudices, that it would not do to make use of it: so one must submit

just to watch the suffering in silence, without attempting to give spiritual help of any sort.

Crucifixes.

But with a Roman Catholic there was no such difficulty. To him one could say all without words and see his eyes brighten a little even in his extreme pain, showing how perfectly he understood what was meant, and yet feel that, instead of exciting and exhausting him by forcing his attention, one had soothed and comforted him; for the representation, in a way to be taken in at one glance and without effort, of the cross and of our Lord in His agony upon it—this held up before the eyes, and then put into the hand, said more than words could say, and the look with which it was received said more than words could say in the way of answer."

When two Protestants, with heads of Philosophers and hearts of Christians, write thus, can you wonder that I dwell upon this section? If the emblems and symbols of my belief are beneficial, why should I not have them before me? I have no right, and I have no wish, to obtrude them upon you, but you do me injustice, you do the Reformatory Principle an injustice, if you prevent me, by your presence, from adopting any aid to the most effectual means of amendment.

The third section of the Bill is as follows:—

"III. Whenever, after the passing of this Act, any person under the Age of Fourteen years shall be convicted of any Larceny, or any other more serious Offence than Larceny, either upon an Indictment, or on Summary Conviction before any Judge, or any Police Magistrate of Dublin, or other Stipendiary Magistrate, or before Two or more Justices of the Peace, then and in every such case it shall be lawful for any Judge, Police Magistrate of Dublin, Stipendiary Magistrate, or any Two or more Justices of the Peace, before whom such Offender shall be convicted, in addition to the Sentence, (if any) then and there passed as a punishment for his Offence, to direct such Offender to be sent, at the Expiration of his Sentence, (if any) to a Reformatory and to be there detained for a period not less than two years, and not exceeding five years; but the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland may, at any time, order such Offender to be discharged.

Provided always, that in all cases in which any Young Offender shall be sentenced to imprisonment previous to committal to a Reformatory, such imprisonment shall be passed in Separate confinement, in cells which shall have been duly certified by the

Inspector-General of prisons, according to the provisions and requirements of the 3rd and 4th Vic., Cap. 44."

The provisions of this section are, in great part, formed upon the second section of the 17th and 18th Vic. c. 86. (The English Juveniles Offenders' Act.) It was, however, thought necessary, considering the vast number of committals, that some minimum offence should be specified, otherwise the Reformatories would be swamped and overwhelmed by vagrants (not that the advocates of the Bill are ignorant of the fact, that vagrancy is incipient crime, but they felt that until a well-designed and stringent vagrant law shall be enforced in Ireland, vagrants must be excluded from the Reformatories.) The maximum age of the young offenders, it will be perceived, is fixed at fourteen years; this I presume was adopted as being in conformity with the English Act: but being anxious to learn the precise number of young offenders of the class contemplated, in Prison on a certain day, that thus some data might be counted upon in estimating the probable accommodation which might be required, I endeavoured to procure the necessary returns, and through the attention of Captain Hervey, one of the Inspectors-General of Prisons in Ireland, I obtained the following important and valuable table:—

Juveniles in Gaols in Ireland, for Larceny and higher Crimes, on 21st of April, 1855.

PROVINCES.	14 years and under.		15 and 16 years.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Ulster - - -	30	5	28	10
Leinster - - -	42	8	66	23
Connaught - - -	25	1	20	5
Munster - - -	68	15	137	21
Total -	165	29	251	59
	194		310	

From this table it will be perceived that if at this moment Reformatories were opened in Ireland, we should only require accommodation for 165 young offenders, this being the number of males, fourteen years of age and under, confined for larceny and other more serious offences, and if we allow committals of the like amount each year during the next five years, we should, at the conclusion of that period, require accommodation for 825; however, if we subtract from this number those likely to receive sentences of two years, we may reduce the accommodation required at the end of five years, to that capable of receiving about five hundred offenders. The proviso as to separate confinement is an improvement upon the English Act, and is too reasonable to require observation.

The fourth section is as follows :—

“ IV. Whenever, under the provisions of this act, any Young Offender shall be committed to a Reformatory, the cost of his support therein, and of all other charges, shall be borne by the Consolidated Fund; and half the amount so advanced by the said Fund shall be repaid to it annually by Presentment of the Grand Jury of the County, in which such Young Offender shall have been convicted, from the rates of the said county: but all payments made to the said Consolidated Fund by any county for the maintenance of such Young Offender as aforesaid, shall be considered as a Loan from the said County to the Guardians of the Electoral Division of the Poor Law Union, on which such Young Offender would have been chargeable as a Pauper, and may be recovered by the Treasurer of said County, from the said Poor Law Union, by an action for Money Lent, before the Assistant Barrister of the County in which said Electoral Division shall be situated.

Provided always, that the said Poor Law Union, or Electoral, Division of the said Poor Law Union, shall be entitled to recover from the Parents, step Parents or Guardians of such Young Offender, all sums paid to the said county for the maintenance of said Offender in said Reformatory, if they shall be of ability to repay such sums at the period of the committal of such Young Offenders, and for the recovery of same shall have all the remedies provided by the second section of an act passed in the tenth and eleventh years of her Majesty, entitled, *An Act to make Provision for the Punishment of Vagrants and Persons offending against the Laws in force for the Relief of the Destitute Poor in Ireland*: And if at any time during the detention of such Young Offender in such Reformatory the Parent, Step Parent or Guardian of such Offender shall become of ability to repay the whole or part of such sums, then the Guardians

of the Poor of said Union shall be entitled to sue for and recover same, as aforesaid."

In my opinion this section, formed upon the provisions of the 44th section of the 1st and 2nd Vic., c. 56, the 2nd section of the 10th and 11th Vic., c. 84 (Irish Poor Law Acts), on the 6th section of the 17th and 18th Vic., c. 86 (the English Youthful Offenders' Act), and on the 5th section of the 17th and 18th Vic., c. 74 (the Scotch Reformatory Schools' Act,) is most excellent, reasonable, and necessary. The county is charged in the first instance with half the cost, but with a remedy over against the Electoral Division; the former arrangement is convenient, the latter is just, because, if the young offender be a pauper, it is only fair that the Electoral Division to which he may belong, and which neglected its duty of training him in the Workhouse, or of saving him from crime, by checking his vagrant habits, should support him when his vagrancy shall have made him a criminal. This is the principle of the Scotch Act; this is the principle contended for most ably in the April number of *The Edinburgh Review*; this is the principle urged upon the Legislature by the Inspectors-General of Prisons in the last paragraphs of their Report above quoted: it is the principle well expressed by Mr. Carleton Tufnell, in his Report on Parochial Union Schools, and quoted, with approbation, by Lieutenant-Col. Jebb, in his Report on Convict Prisons in England, for 1854, in the following passage:—

"Guardians are not always so open to considerations of ultimate as of immediate economy; and many a pauper who now, before his death, costs his parish £100 or £200, might have lived without relief, had a different education, represented perhaps by the additional expense of a single pound, been bestowed upon him in his youth. This is strictly retributive justice; and I think it would be good policy to increase its effect, and would give a prodigious stimulus to the diffusion of education, if the expense of every criminal, while in prison, were reimbursed to the country by the parish in which he had a settlement. What a stir would be created in any parish by the receipt of a demand from the Secretary of State for the Home

Department for £80 for the support of two criminals during the past year! I cannot but think that the locality where they had been brought up would be immediately investigated, perhaps some wretched hovels, before unregarded, made known, and means taken to educate and civilize families that had brought such grievous taxation on the parish. The expense of keeping criminals, as of paupers, must be borne somewhere; and it seems more just that it should fall on those parishes whose neglect has probably caused the crime than on the general purse."

It will be observed, that whilst the Electoral Division is held liable, the great principle of Parental Responsibility is not forgotten; and provision is made to meet even the case of a parent unable to pay at the period of committal but becoming of ability to do so previous to the liberation of his child; in which event he is bound to pay not alone the future cost of maintenance, but also all arrears of the expenses previously incurred.

I sincerely hope that if this Bill become law, not one principle of this section shall be omitted, or weakened in effect. It will teach Poor Law Guardians that they cannot avoid the duty cast upon them of providing for the proper care of the young pauper, and it will show to parents that they cannot escape with impunity, if they neglect to watch over the conduct of their children. It places no extra burthen on the Union, which should support the young criminal as a pauper, and it justly relieves the county of his support in gaol; yet, I heard an Irish Member of Parliament object to introduce this Bill, as this clause might make the measure unpopular!

The fifth section is framed upon the fourth section of the Juvenile Offenders' Act, and provides for the punishment of absconding or refractory juveniles.

The sixth section is formed upon the third section of the Scotch Reformatory Act, and provides that persons aiding, or attempting to aid, in the escape of absconding juveniles, may be committed for three months, with hard labor, to the common gaol of the county, on default of payment of a penalty not exceeding five pounds.

The seventh section is one of very great importance, and its provisions cannot be too highly commended. They secure efficient and worthy officers for the Reformatories, and they afford a complete check to that favoritism which has led to those mischievous and corrupt nominations so justly reprobated by the Inspectors-General in their *Report* already quoted. The section is as follows :—

“ VII. All the Reformatories of Ireland shall be inspected by an Inspector or Inspectors, to be nominated and appointed by the Lord Lieutenant, or other Chief Governor or Governors of Ireland, and all Superintendents, Chaplains and other Officers of such Institutions shall be Appointed and Removed by the Lord Lieutenant as aforesaid ; and every such appointment shall be probationary only, for and during a period of six months, and shall not be or become absolute until the said Inspector or Inspectors shall have certified in writing under their hands that the person so nominated is a fit, proper, and efficient person to be appointed to the office, the duties of which he shall have been discharging in pursuance of such probationary appointment.

Provided always that all Officers of such Reformatories shall profess the Religion of those Young Offenders for whose reception the Institution shall be especially set apart, as by the second Section of this Act provided.”

The concluding sections, eight and nine, are these :—

“ VIII. All legal proceedings taken by any Reformatory shall be carried on in the name of its Superintendent, and all monies paid to any such Institution shall be paid to the credit of its Superintendent for its benefit.

IX. All rules for the Management of Reformatories shall be drawn up by persons to be nominated and appointed by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and shall be approved by the said Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, before adoption into any Reformatory Institution.”

I am fully aware that, to the passing of this Bill, it may be objected, that it contemplates a new demand upon the Consolidated Fund ; and doubtless it does so, but in the future the drain upon that Fund will be lessened by the very advance here claimed ; because, through the establishment of Reformatories, the increase of crime must be checked, and consequently the amount of accommodation required in our Convict Prisons must decrease ; and with that decrease of crime will come a

proportionate decrease of expenditure—for it must be remembered that the Consolidated Fund bears the entire cost of the support of all criminals sentenced to Penal Labor. By the reformation of the young offender the country will be relieved from the cost of repeated convictions; from the expense of his prison support; from the evil of his corrupting example, and from the loss which his habits of plundering inflict on the community. These are but the worldly considerations and arguments supporting this measure, but a holy, and grave, and paramount argument rings in the eternal wisdom of the Redeemer's warning—"as long as you did it not to one of these least, neither did you do it to me."

I am not, however, without the means of calculating, approximately, the cost. In the year 1853, one of the Inspectors-General of Prisons, Mr. James Corry Connellan, was examined before the Committee of the House of Commons, on Criminal and Destitute Children, and he gave the following important evidence on this point, stating that he had visited the Continental Reformatories:—

"I have taken as a fair basis two of the county gaols of Ireland in which I find that the daily average of prisoners was about this number during the year 1851. In the county of Galway gaol the daily average, in the year 1851, was 404, and in the gaol of Nenagh, in the North Riding of Tipperary, there were exactly 400. It is very remarkable that the total cost of each prisoner (we have no power of distinguishing the cost of juveniles as they never keep the account in gaols, although it might be done in future) is £8. 14s. 10d. per head in Galway, and £6. 14s. 4d. per head in Nenagh. The expense of the staff of officers in Galway is £1,130, and in Nenagh £955. The difference is created by the higher salaries of the governor and local inspector in Galway. It must be recollected that this includes everything, except the interest of money which the gaol cost in building. I presume that growing boys employed in agricultural labour and worked hard would require a more generous diet than our prison diet, which is brought as low as is compatible with health. I think also you would require, if the reformatory establishment were carried out on the principle of Mettray, a larger staff than exists at the two gaols I have named; I would therefore give £8 for each of the 400 boys, which would amount to £3,200. I next give the cost of the building; and here I am sure that I have made a most extravagant estimate, for building is very

cheap in Ireland. I have put it at £10,000, but I really feel great certainty when I state that the sum of £6,000 would be sufficient for the building, which necessarily would be very plain and simple. We will take it at £10,000, and the interest of that amount, at four per cent., would be £400.

4194. *Mr. Adderley.*] Including the purchase of the site? I take a rent for the land; I take 200 acres, at £1 per acre, £200.

4195. *Mr. J. Ball.*] Do you include the rent in the average of £8 per head?—No.

4196. *Mr. Fitzroy.*] You include nothing but diet in the £8?—I include everything in the £8 per annum, which represents the 400th part of the total expenditure. I will give £200 for contingencies, so as to make a round sum of £4,000. If we take the labour of 400 boys, for 50 weeks, striking off two weeks for interruption of weather and illness, I put the worth of their labour at 6d. per day, or 3s. per week. I apprehend that, in the first instance, it would not be worth that amount; but that after the institution had been a year in operation, we might safely calculate upon that amount. At Mettray, they profess to give £8 per annum as representing the earnings of the boys. These, by my calculation, would amount to £7. 10; so that there would be a balance of £1,000 as against the institution chargeable upon the State. I conceive that the estimate for the building is at least £4,000 too high, and that £140 (at four per cent.) might consequently be deducted from the £1,000.*

These calculations are important, as they shew the amount requisite to carry out fully the Reformatory principle where Government interposes; but, by the Bill before us, the number and size of the Reformatories is left to the discretion of the Lord Lieutenant, and it is probable that, even allowing for the increased cost of materials and of labor, all the accommodation required, during the next five years, could be secured for a sum not exceeding that estimated by Mr. Connellan for a single Reformatory. Possibly, if the system adopted at Hardwicke Court, by my valued friend Mr. Baker, were tried as an experiment, the expense of maintenance might be reduced; and another admirable system may be learned from Reports of the Glasgow House of Refuge.

As the Hardwicke School, founded and supported by two

* Mr. Senior, Poor Law Commissioner, was examined before the same Committee, and agreed in all essentials with this calculation made by Mr. Connellan.

Gloucestershire Magistrates, is not well known, in Ireland, I shall here condense, from the various little publications of these gentlemen, an account of the institution; but I advise all who feel an interest in the Reformatory School question, to procure a paper "On Reformatory Schools, By T. Barwick Lloyd Baker, Esq., Read at the Meeting of the British Association, at Liverpool, Sept. 26th 1854;" meanwhile, I beg your attention to the following extracts from the pamphlets to which I have above referred:—

"In March, 1852, we commenced with three boys from a distant part of England. All had been frequently previously convicted; all were in weak health; none of them could handle a spade. From time to time we added another and another, as we found that we had gained some influence over those already in hand; but as we were uncertain what our increase would be, we could only for the first year undertake the cultivation of one acre, the produce of which of course assisted but little in the diminution of our expenses. Last winter, however, though several of our boys were scarcely up to hard work, we ventured on six acres. Our land—an extremely stiff blue clay, which had never been even deeply ploughed—was hard for small and light boys to dig, much harder, of course, than it is likely ever to be again; but our six acres were well worked, and our crops of this year bear good testimony to the effects of spade husbandry. We have now taken ten acres in hand, and probably should have done wisely had we taken more. Next year we hope to increase it considerably.

In the last spring, as our appeal to the county was liberally answered, we increased our buildings, which now consist of a cottage for the bailiff (not being fond of long names, we prefer the term bailiff—meaning him to whom something is given in charge—to that of superintendent) and his family. We have two rooms for the schoolmaster, and we have school room and bed room for twenty boys. We have a carpenter's shop, pigsties for at present sixteen pigs, stalls for three cows, and we are commencing some more pigsties and a barn. But, should any one come to visit us, they must not hope to see a range of buildings of a high class of architecture. The dwellings of the bailiff, the schoolmaster, and the boys, are of the plainest and cheapest style of labourers' cottages; the carpenter's shop, pigsties, and cowhouses, and the future barn, are built by the bailiff and the boys of the refuse slabs of the saw-mills, patched together as they can. They answer the required purpose as sheltering the cows, pigs, &c. and we wish not to have more. We feel most strongly that though it is of great importance that children who have erred should have an opportunity of recovering themselves, yet feel equally that it would be a fatal injustice that those children who have unhappily fallen into sin, should be placed into a position which

those who have been honest cannot attain to, and we think ourselves fortunate in having found a bailiff who appears to agree with us that, converting unfortunate boys into good labourers is of more importance than the exciting the admiration of a casual visitor.

The whole of our buildings cost about £250, and they are of such a construction that should the school be given up, they would be at any time convertible into labourers' cottages, which would bring as good an interest as labourers' cottages usually command.

The other expenses, including furniture, masters' salaries, maintenance, clothing, and in fact, *every* cost for 18 months, amount to about £400; but on going over the stock with a valuer, whose strict honesty I can depend upon, the 3 cows and 16 pigs were valued at selling price at £36. 18s.; the crops then on the ground, besides what had been consumed, at £77; and furniture and sundries, at £57. 3s. 6d.; making a total stock in hand of £171. 1s. 6d.; and thereby reducing the cost to £230 for the 18 months, or a little more than £11 per head total expense for the 12 months. This, we allow, appears high at first sight, but when we consider that it includes the expenses of the inexperience and consequent alterations of our first start, and also that in our first year we cropped only one acre, and in our second year only six, and that some labour and time has been expended in building our sheds, deep digging (for the first time) our land, draining some part of it (all done by the bailiff and the boys), and in generally preparing our land and ourselves for future labour, we may hope for the future our expenses will be materially diminished.

Annexed is the balance-sheet for the two years; the managers making up any deficiencies in the subscriptions—there is a very small balance left in hand.

Dr.	£.	s.	d.	Cr.	£.	s.	d.
Salary.....	47	1	0	Subscriptions.....	112	5	4
Food.....	229	0	2½	Paid for boys.....	28	17	0
Clothing.....	59	11	7½	Committee and			
Furniture—including				Managers.....	509	0	0
Work done by				Farm Produce.....	9	17	11½
the Carpenter at							
Hardwicke Court,							
estimated at £3...	69	17	3½				
Sundries — including							
Fuel, Light,							
Washing, &c.....	109	19	9½				
Farm — including							
value of manure taken							
to, labour, &c.	142	17	8½				
Balance in hand.....	1	12	8				
	£660	0	3½		£660	0	3½

The sleeping room for twenty boys allows only a space of about three feet by six, for each, leaving a narrow passage down the centre of the room—little more than just room for their hammocks, on each of which is a straw-stuffed bed, a pair of sheets, a blanket, and a counterpane.

The School and day room will only just accommodate the same number; and the only other buildings (except the wooden cattle sheds, &c. erected by the bailiff and boys) are a cottage for the bailiff and his family, two small rooms for the master, all communicating with the day room and dormitory of the boys, a small dairy, and the two cells alluded to before.

The dietary consists of skim-milk, bread, (about ten ounces at each meal, of which it forms the main part) vegetables, rice, cheese, soup, meat in small quantities three times a week (about four ounces, cooked, to each boy,) and occasionally about half-a-pint of common cider, and a little tea and butter on Sundays.

The School dress is a suit of cord, the jacket replaced on working days by a short smock of duck, worn over the sleeve waistcoat.

The day's work, except during the darkest months of winter, when it is rather shorter, begins at half-past six, half an hour being allowed for rising, making beds, &c., and ends at five, two hours and a quarter being deducted for meals and morning prayers. The main employment is digging (for which the spade is found generally, though not so easy as the fork, the most thoroughly efficient implement), and other ordinary agricultural labour. Some of the boys are employed in feeding, &c., the three cows and the pigs, or in work about the house, assisting in the cooking or other ways. One who knew a little of that trade before he came, is occasionally employed as a tailor; and all are taught, as far as may be, the making of common rough baskets, and knitting common worsted stockings.

To encourage those who are inclined to work well, and to secure general good conduct, a scale of rewards has been adopted (on the plan pursued at the Philanthropic Society's Farm School, at Red Hill,) not exceeding, in the highest instance, sixpence a week, and subject to deductions for infraction of any of the School rules; the amount so earned being put to the boy's credit, or paid in *goods*, or *additional luxuries at meals*. The degree of their diligence is measured by the bailiff, as it has been found difficult, as yet, to organize an efficient system of piece-working, owing partly to the ignorance in using their tools shown when they first come.

To show the amount of work which they are capable of performing, annexed is a return of lands cropped in the last two years, from Michaelmas, 1852. It should be first remarked that, at that period, less than one acre of the whole quantity had ever been dug at all; the rest, a stiff blue clay, had never been even deeply ploughed, and was very foul; and that autumn, from its excessive wetness, was exceedingly unfavourable for working any land at all. In that first season, the number of boys in the School varied from nine to twelve; with their help the bailiff put in and harvested the following crops:—

	A.	R.	P.		
Beans	1	0	1	Produce	25 Bushels.
Wheat	1	3	9½	"	58 "
Cabbage	0	3	37	"	2280 Plants.
Swedes	0	0	15	" ... {	4½ Tons.
Parsnips				"	½ "
Potatoes & Turnips	0	2	28	"	3½ Bags.
Mangold Wurzel	0	2	12½	"	½ Ton.
Leaving Fallow } dug over }	0	3	17	"	nil.
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In the present season, since Michaelmas, 1853, the efficient number has been about fifteen; with their help he has or will be able to crop with—

	A.	R.	P.
Wheat	2	3	37½
Beans	3	0	0
Swedes	1	0	0
Potatoes	0	0	37
Cabbages	0	3	0
Mangold Wurzel	0	3	17
Italian Rye Grass	0	1	37
Leaving Fallow	0	3	31½

besides having drained a considerable quantity at a depth of four feet.

This system of training fits the boys, as it is intended to do, for useful labourers on a farm. This is what the managers now hope to make of them, their design being to bind them to careful farmers for a term of years, receiving them back into the School if they do not give satisfaction upon trial. They are generally fit to go out, if present experience can be relied on, at the end of eighteen months or two years. In a few instances at that time, or perhaps earlier, they might be safely allowed to return to their friends, who, though they had abandoned them before, are sometimes willing and ready to receive and provide for them, when they see the change which a residence in the School has worked upon them. But in general this seems unadvisable; and the power which the managers insist upon having of disposing entirely of the boys, even to the point of sending them if necessary to the Colonies (as they at first contemplated, before labour became so valuable as it is now) operates, even if not carried into effect, as a very salutary check on the desire both of parents and children for admission into the School.

The quantity of land required we find to be about half an acre (of stiff clay) to a boy, but after it has been well dug for some years it will become lighter, and they can do more.

Our staff consists of Mr. Bengough and myself as managers. He lives 12 miles from the school; I about one. He comes and spends a few days with me now and then (alas! very rarely). I, when I

have an hour or two to spare (very rarely also), go over and look at the boys working, and have a chat with one or another. I should think that I devote on an average four hours a week to looking on and chatting. Such are our arduous labours.

The bailiff is a farmer used to superintending workpeople, who does not treat the boys as a warder would do, according to strict rule, for any deviation from which he is liable to be complained of to the Visiting Magistrates, exacting a certain amount of work, and weighing out a certain amount of food; but he treats them exactly as experience has taught him to treat his own workpeople, or his own children, exacting what labour he sees that each can do, and giving to each what food he finds to be necessary to keep him in hard-working condition. We certainly are fortunate in our bailiff. He has a mild gentle manner, with undeniable firmness. He will readily give us his opinion, which is usually worth having; but he will strictly obey our orders; and, above all, his heart is in it. A great part of the ease of our success is perhaps to be attributed to our finding so good a bailiff. But in these days, when farming cannot be carried on without a large capital, there is many a man to be found with good plain education, good practical knowledge, and good feeling, but with too small a capital to farm.

The next person is the schoolmaster, and this I confess is a difficult office to fill. We can find many schoolmasters who will take the entire command of a school, and will cram their pupils, so as to gain the approbation of the most fastidious examiner. But to find a man who will teach for two hours and a half per day—so short a time that he will never be able to make them great scholars, fit to make a show of; who can in fact believe and feel that the converting the pests of society into good Christians is as useful and as honourable an occupation as that of giving ploughboys a correct knowledge of the position of the antarctic circle; who has in fact not merely a clever head but a good heart, *and that heart in this work*, is as yet a difficult person to find. Still I believe that ere long the demand will create a supply. Many a lad in our training schools is unable to pass the high examination required, and not obtaining a certificate of *sufficient learning*, is disqualified for taking charge of a national school. Yet many of these may have courage, coolness, discipline, and a heart in the right place, and though they have failed in their first intention, yet, in such a line as ours, they may possibly make not less useful, not less honoured men than others who have taken a first-class certificate.

In addition to the bailiff and schoolmaster we have also lately taken a labourer at 1s. per week above labourers' wages, to work and superintend one of the gangs. He in all probability will in fact cost us nothing, as he will earn his wages on the land; and with 36 boys with no fence round them two superintendents are scarcely enough."

These extracts are most useful, as they shew what the cost can really be made, and the concluding observations, refer-

ring to the School-master, are of the very chiefest importance, and should be kept constantly in mind by all who may, in Ireland, hereafter have the guidance of Reformatory Institutions. The Chaplain and the School-master are *the* officers of Reformatories; they make or mar the success of the whole system; and where men possessing the great and noble qualities, so truthfully and earnestly indicated by Mr. Baker, are secured as chaplains or as school-masters, they should be respected as men whose callings, high though they be, are yet rendered worthy still greater esteem by the possession of all those qualities which constitute perfection in the respective avocations. In fixing the payment of such men they should be looked upon not as officers of a Reformatory, but as benefactors to the commonwealth; as men who save money for the State, and, taking a higher range of thought, save souls for heaven—awakening in each “City Arab” and “Home Heathen” “the energy and spirit of a MAN.”

Your Bill purports to be prepared, and brought in, by yourself, by the Attorney General for Ireland, and by Sir George Grey: yet I hardly think that its third section was drawn up in Ireland. By that section, justices or judges before whom a Young Criminal is convicted are *required* to commit him, for a period of not less than fourteen days to gaol, previous to his being confided to the Reformatory. You do not leave this fourteen days’ “dose of pain” at the option of the judge: you do not REQUIRE THAT THE FOURTEEN DAYS, “AT LEAST,” SHALL BE PASSED IN SEPARATE CONFINEMENT. When you, and the Attorney General for Ireland, and Sir George Grey, determined to introduce this Bill, did you know the places to which you *compelled* a judge to send these Juveniles for fourteen days? Possibly it is not the duty of the Chief Secretary to read the Annual Reports addressed to him by the Inspectors General of Prisons, and by the Directors of Convict Prisons: I know not if the Attorney General is an

esprit d'escalier, and like the Sophist in the Platonic Dialogues, "arrives at a knowledge of the great Mysteries without passing through the lesser," and can draw Acts of Parliament by a species of intuition,—but I do know that by this Bill before me, you oblige judges to commit Juveniles to gaols whence they must come forth more depraved than when they entered. You can expect nothing else. Had you read *The Thirty-third Report of the Inspectors General, on the General State of the Prisons of Ireland, 1854*, you would have known that "complete separation exists in only four gaols in Ireland—namely, Antrim, Armagh, Kilkenny and Louth ;" you would have learned also, that of the forty-two gaols under the inspection of Messrs. Connellan and Hervey, there are, as the *Report* emphatically expresses, "no less than nineteen which are wholly without any modification of this paramount principle of discipline." Thus the Young Offender is associated with the Old Criminal. Your Bill declares that he is fitter for the School than for the Gaol, yet you first send him to the Gaol, you force the judge to commit him to a place worse than the seed-plots of crime in which he learned to sin.

From the tables of recommittals, as furnished by the last quoted *Report*, you can estimate the probable effect to be produced upon the Young Offender's mind by prison association. Of those males, 1,529, in number, not exceeding sixteen years of age, there were, twice imprisoned, 713 ; three times, 856 ; four times, 171 ; five times, and upwards, 289. These figures enable you to judge of the effect of that committal to a common gaol which your Bill forces the judge to inflict ; you do this though the Inspectors reported so long ago as 1850, that in the Richmond Penitentiary, at Grangegorman, the almost incredible total of 2,178 committals was represented by only 26 individuals, one having been imprisoned no less than 121 times. Your Directors of Convict Prisons declare in their *Report*, their most able and admirable *Report*, for 1854,

that owing to the want of any proper Reformatory course having been pursued, up to that period in Ireland, they did not "think themselves justified in issuing Tickets-of-Licence."

The Inspectors General in their *Report* for the same year state, that there is a "want of care and conscientiousness generally exhibited in the appointment of turnkeys"; that in the majority of cases Boards of Superintendence appoint to these offices through mere favoritism, and without any regard to fitness; that a turnkey able to read and write is considered fit for the office of schoolmaster, or a schoolmaster willing to accept the post is looked upon as suited for turnkey—the saving in salary being the chief point inducing the Boards to make the appointment. Fairly might the Inspectors General report, as they did report, that this patronage should be transferred to proper authority; and well might Frederick Hill write, in his book on *Crime*,—

"I am of opinion that most effectually to carry out the objects of imprisonment, and that at the least cost to the community, and with the nearest approach to justice in the apportionment of the cost, it is requisite that the whole power and duty of providing and regulating prisons be placed in the hands of the Government."

These facts, sir, were all before you, and before the Attorney General for Ireland, when you resolved to *compel* the Judge to commit the young offender to the common gaol, previous to his admission to the Reformatory, and this section was printed and introduced, although your own Inspectors General declared thus, against the principle, in the valuable *Report* I have already quoted—they are referring to the English Act and write,—

"The *principles* laid down in the latter statute would appear to be in harmony with the views which have been gathering strength for some years throughout the United Kingdom and in many countries on the Continent where this vital question has attracted public attention; and we should therefore earnestly desire to see them practically applied to institutions of a similar character in this country, without binding ourselves to an entire concurrence in some of the collateral conditions—such, for instance, as the proviso that no youthful offender shall come within the scope of the Act who shall not have undergone a sentence of imprisonment for at least *fourteen*

days, although it is unaccompanied by any requirement that such imprisonment should be carried out in *strict separation*, an omission which, we submit, involves the danger of exposure to contamination, few of our gaols being furnished with sufficient accommodation and appliances for maintaining in its integrity this indispensable system of treatment in such circumstances; for we hold that mere confinement in a prison, in which the opportunities of intercourse and communication are strictly guarded against, would not affix the stigma of debasement and corruption, which, in the public mind are inseparable from the common association of offenders of different ages and grades of criminality."

I have, when writing of the Second Section of this Bill, devoted a very considerable portion of space to the consideration of its provisions; I have done so in no sectarian spirit; I desire to give to every class of my fellow-countrymen the same rights and safe-guards of faith which I claim for myself; and I now, more strongly than ever, claim these safe-guards, for whilst I write, I hear that divisions have occurred amongst the advocates of the Reformatory Principle in England, arising out of the miserable question, compulsory Bible reading. Doubtless the division can be only momentary, but if it can arise for a moment in England, may it not exist for months openly, and for years covertly, and be far more mischievous in the years than in the months, in Ireland?

I beg you, before you lay aside this letter, to remember how potent the agencies of the Catholic religion have been in working out the Reformatory Principle in France and in Belgium. Consider how cheaply and how cheerfully the agency of the Sisters of Mercy, of the Sisters of Charity, and of the Christian Brothers, could be brought to bear upon the Catholic juveniles in the course of their reformation. If you are a reader of the *Life of Southey*, you will know how earnestly the establishment of the former order in his own church was longed for by that great thinker; if you are a reader of the *Annales de la Charité*, you will comprehend how usefully these orders might be employed in a Catholic country, such as Ireland.

There are difficulties in the way, I admit, and if you were

one of the "ruck" of Exeter Hall I should not thus address you ; but to a fearless reformer, who has proved how little he cares for the whole Bench of Bishops when working out great principles, I may address myself ; and as England, as a nation, has long since handed Ireland over to " Popery," let us have the full benefit of our reprobation—it is cheap, it will be successful, and will eventually lighten the calls on the Consolidated Fund for the support of Irish Convict Prisons.

Thus, sir, I have endeavoured to place this whole question of Reformatory Schools for Ireland before you ; it is for you, and for our Parliamentary Representatives, to say whether we shall have them to our advantage, and to the saving of the national expenditure, or whether we shall have them as a new source of hatred, of ill-feeling, and an undoubted grievance.

I would not trouble you at this length, but having worked, anxiously, with thought, pen, and tongue, for five years in support of the principle I here advocate, I think I may be allowed to offer a full opinion on this important subject.

If you press your Bill, as it now stands, with its mixture of truth and error, you will do more to damage the Reformatory Principle in Ireland than years of wise legislation can afterwards remedy ; if you proceed upon other than sound modes of legislation you destroy public confidence ; if you compel judges to send young offenders to common gaols, you will legislate unphilosophically, ignorantly, and rashly. If you expect to see the Reformatories established and supported by Voluntary agency, you expect that from Ireland, which you do not and cannot hope to see lasting in England. If you permit the mixture of Catholics and Protestants in the same Reformatory, you do an injury to both, you retard, you render impossible, the complete Reformation of either ; for, as Mary Carpenter beautifully expressed it to me, " Successful Reformation is best secured by the action of Soul upon Soul, and

this can only be completely perfected by an identity of religious feeling between the teacher and the pupil."

I am, sir,

With very great respect,

Your most obedient servant,

PATRICK JOSEPH MURRAY.

1 *Upper Pembroke-street, Dublin.*

Feb. 16, 1856.

THE END.

THE following works contain full information on the subject of Reformatory Schools, and also on that of Prison Discipline.

Crime : its Amount, Causes, and Remedy. By Frederick Hill. Murray, 1853.

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Juvenile Delinquents : By Mary Carpenter. Cash.

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Quarterly Review for December, 1855.

Prevention Better than Cure. By A. Thomson. London, 1855.

Mettray : from 1839 to 1856. Cash.

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Irish Quarterly Review, from June, 1853, to March, 1856.

Report on Criminal and Destitute Juveniles. Parl. Blue Book, 1852.

Report on Criminal and Destitute Children. Parl. Blue Book, 1853.

Report of a Visit to Mettray. By THOMAS PAYNTER, Esq. and the REV. SYDNEY TURNER. London, 1845.

Mettray : a Charge by the Recorder of Birmingham. Charles Knight, Fleet Street: 1848.

The Correction of Juvenile Offenders. Edinburgh Review, April, 1855.

Mettray. Chambers' Journal, November, 1855.

A Visit to Mettray. Chambers' Journal, Nov. 1855.

Practical Suggestions to the Founders of Reformatory Schools, By the RECORDER OF BIRMINGHAM. Cash, London: 1855.

Colonie Agricole et Pénitentiaire de Mettray. Rapport Annuel. Paris, Rue des Moulins 11 : 1855.

Report on Agricultural Colonies. By M. DEMETZ. Translated for the Irish Quarterly Review. December, 1855: Simpkin and Marshall, London.

Notice of Mettray. By M. COCHIN. Translated by the Rev. GEORGE HANS HAMILTON: 1853. London: Whittaker & Co.

Mettray : a Letter from Lord Leigh. 1856.

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